

Braley Pushed for Waiver of Typical 75 percent Federal/25 percent Non-Federal Split **Washing
ton, DC -**

Today Rep. Bruce Braley (D-Iowa) announced that the federal government will increase its share of disaster payments for Iowa's flood and tornado relief to fully 100 percent federal funding. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will now cover all costs of debris removal and emergency protective measures under the Public Assistance Program for the first fourteen days of the disasters, beginning with the May 25, 2008 tornadoes.

"The enormous scale of last year's floods and tornadoes made it hard for Iowa communities to afford disaster recovery," Braley said. "I'm pleased the Iowa delegation was able to urge FEMA to waive the original 25 percent state-local funding requirement. By increasing federal funding to fully cover some costs from the disasters, we can help Iowa communities continue their recovery efforts."

FEMA typically requires a 75 percent federal/ 25 percent non-federal cost share agreement, which would require state and local governments to pay 25 percent of the costs associated with disasters. Last July, the Administration reduced the cost share agreement to a 90 percent federal/ 10 percent non-federal cost share for certain costs associated with the disasters. Today's announcement increases the amount of federal assistance to 100 percent.

Rep. Braley, along with the other members of the Iowa delegation, wrote to President Bush on June 17, 2008 asking him to waive the 75 percent federal/25 percent non-federal cost share agreement. A copy of delegation's June 17, 2008 letter is attached to this message.